Indo-Nepal Task Force on Flood

2050. DR. T. SUBBARAMII REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India-Nepal had agreed to speed up efforts on flood control and management;

(b) if so, whether two countries had agreed to set up a task force to draw strategies to combat problem;

(c) whether India and Nepal share 243 rivers and propose to give a push to long pending hydro power projects and form a joint team of experts on outstanding issues;

(d) if so, to what extent this task force has agreed to take steps to check the floods in both Nepal and India; and

(e) what are the strategies adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) (b), (d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A Joint Committee of India & Nepal has been constituted to work out short-term strategy for identifying the vulnerable areas along various rivers and identify the steps to mitigate the devastation caused by the floods. The Committee has been asked to submit its report in 3 months, suggesting necessary remedial measures.

(c) The major rivers which are common between India & Nepal are Sharda, Ghaghara, Saryu, Rapti, Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla, Sapta Kosi, Kankai and Adhwara Group of rivers. In addition there are a number of small rivers and streams. In order to give push to the hydro power projects, the Joint Group of Experts has been constituted to look into the preparation of Detailed Project Report of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and Joint Team of Experts has already been constituted to look into the preparation of Detailed Project Report for Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme. There is also a Joint Committee on Water Resources at the level of Secretaries to look into the overall cooperation between India and Nepal in the water resources sector.

Privatisation of Water Supply

2051. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to privatise water supply and management looking at the problems that India is facing with regard to water;

(b) whether Government have any plan to bring water into Union list to deal with various disputes between different States with regard to water;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) National Water Policy-2002 envisages that Private Sector Participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible which may help in introducing innovative ideas, generating financial resources and introducing corporate management and improving service efficiency and accountability to users.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In case any dispute is referred to the Union Government by the concerned State Government, efforts are made to resolve the differences by negotiations failing which disputes are referred to tribunals for adjudication at the request of concerned States. The Government has amended the Inter-State Water Disputes Act in 2002 whereby the adjudication of the water disputes by a Tribunal has been made time-bound.

Irrigation Wells in Assam

2052. SHRI DWIJENDRANATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation wells provided to small and marginal farmers in Assam during the last three years, district-wise; and

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes benefited * under this scheme in the State during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per information provided by the Irrigation Department of Government of Assam, 356 Nos of deep tubewells in working condition and 964 Nos of shallow tubewells are provided to small and marginal farmers during the last three years. District-wise information is given in the Statement. (See below).

(b) 250 Scheduled Caste families and 510 Scheduled Tribe families have been benefited by the wells. —